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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W
---------- 049779
R 041704Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0232
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0210

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT,BB
SUBJ: BY-ELECTION CALLED

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GOB HAS CALLED A BY-ELECTION FOR FEBRUARY 26 TO FILL THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SEAT FOR ST. PHILLIP'S NORTH, VACANT SINCE THE REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, NEVILLE MAXWELL OF THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY(DLP). THE DLP, THE OPPOSITION BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY, AND THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT HAVE ALL ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES. FOR THE LAST, A NEW PARTY, IT WILL BE ITS FIRST ELECTORAL TEST. THE CANDIDATES ARE WARWICK FRANKLYN, DLP, FORMER COMMISSIONER OF VALUATIONS; DAVID SIMMONS, BLP, WHO LOST TO MAXWELL IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1971; AND MAURICE MASON OF THE PDM.

END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE SEAT'S VACANCY, THE RULING PARTY IS VULNERABLE. SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAD PREDICTED THAT THEY WOULD CALL GENERAL ELECTION BEFORE
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE BY-ELECTION (MID-APRIL) IN ORDER TO

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AVOID AN ISOLATED DEFEAT THAT COULD BE SEEN AS INDICATIVE OF A TREND AFFECTING LATER GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE OPPOSITION BLP WILL NOW BE able TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON THIS BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH THEY COULD NOT HAVE DONE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS.

OBVIOUSLY, THE DLP CONSIDERS THE SEASON NOT PROPITIOUS, FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY DUE THIS DECEMBER. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BRITTON

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NNN

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Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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